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## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. For use with a cellular digital communication network having a base station and a plurality of subscriber units served thereby, said cellular digital communications network including a control channel by way of which digital signal transmission channels are assignable for communication sessions for said subscriber units, a method of allocating bandwidth to said subscriber units for said digital signal transmission channels comprising the steps of:
  - a) in response to a subscriber unit's request for a digital signal transmission channel, allocating a portion of said available bandwidth for use by said subscriber unit for said digital signal transmission channel during a communication session; and
  - b) in the absence of a presentation of digital communication signals by said subscriber unit for a prescribed period of time during said communication session, deallocating said portion of said available bandwidth from use by said subscriber unit while maintaining the appearance of a continuous connection for said communication session.
2. For use with a cellular digital communication network having a base station and a plurality of subscriber units served thereby, said cellular digital

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communications network including a control channel by way of which digital signal transmission channels are assignable for communication sessions for said subscriber units, a method of allocating bandwidth to said subscriber units for said digital signal transmission channels comprising the steps of:

- a) in response to a subscriber unit's need to transmit digital communication signals, allocating a portion of said available bandwidth that is selected to the extent possible for meeting said subscriber unit's need, for use by said subscriber unit during a communication session; and
- b) in the absence of a presentation of digital communication signals by said subscriber unit for a prescribed period of time during said communication session, deallocating a prescribed portion of said selected portion of said available bandwidth from said subscriber unit and, instead making said prescribed portion of said selected portion of said available bandwidth ~~available for use by another subscriber unit.~~